

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - August 28, 2006

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that United States District Judge Thomas J. Whelan today sentenced Armando Rangel-Rodriguez to serve 188 months in prison for alien smuggling. Rangel-Rodriguez was convicted by federal jury on March 17, 2006 on all counts of a ten-count indictment. At sentencing, the Court made a formal finding that Rangel-Rodriguez has been responsible for smuggling, transporting, or harboring more than 100 aliens.

According to court documents, Rangel-Rodriguez's arrest resulted from an in-depth investigation by the United States Border Patrol into alien smuggling in the Jacumba and Boulevard areas of San Diego County. According to the same documents, at least nine drivers who smuggled aliens on behalf of Rangel-Rodriguez have been arrested, prosecuted, and convicted on federal charges. At sentencing, the Court imposed a sentencing enhancement to reflect Rangel-Rodriguez's "aggravated role" as a leader of the smuggling ring.

United States Attorney Lam said, “The sentence of fifteen years and eight months imposed by Judge Whelan today reflects the depth of Rangel-Rodriguez’s involvement in orchestrating alien smuggling in the East County of San Diego.”

United States Attorney Lam commended the Border Patrol on its successful investigation of Rangel-Rodriguez’s smuggling ring.

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 02CR3220-W**

Armando Rangel-Rodriguez

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii), Bringing in Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain, and  
18 United States Code, Section 2, Aiding and Abetting (5 counts)

Maximum Penalty: 15 years’ maximum per count, mandatory minimum of 5 years  
\$250,000 fine  
Three years of supervised release

Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii), Bringing in Illegal Aliens without Presentation, and  
18 United States Code, Section 2, Aiding and Abetting (5 counts)

Maximum Penalty: 5 years’ maximum per count  
\$250,000 fine  
Three years of supervised release

**INVESTIGATING AGENCY**

United States Border Patrol